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OF

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OF

NEW-ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING.

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TESTIMONIES.

HULDAH B. HOAG.

A testimony of Sandwich, N. H. Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning Huldah B. Hoag.

Our beloved friend, Huldah B. Hoag, wife of Lindley M. Hoag, of Wolfborough, in the state of New-Hampshire, having been recently removed by death from the Church militant, and leaving an evidence behind her, of having been made meet through sanctification of the Spirit, for a better inheritance, we have believed it right to note a few particulars respecting her, if haply others might be encouraged by her example to that dedication of heart, by which they might be enabled to glorify our Father who is in Heaven.

She was born on the 5th of the 1st month, in the year of our Lord, 1801. Her parents, Joseph and Hannah Varney, of Wolfborough, were members of our religious Society, who, though situated in a small meeting, were concerned to be watchful over their children, and to train them up in the way they should go. This, their eldest child, was blessed with good intellectual endowments, and an affectionate and benevolent disposition, with a heart disposed to compassionate the needy and afflicted; which was evinced by her readiness according to opportunity and the means in her power, to visit such and administer relief.

When quite young, she was sensibly reached by the manifestations of the Holy Spirit, by which she was often broken into tenderness of heart, and was led to a love for the truth, and an esteem for such as were reputed worthy Friends.

They generally had at her father's house, the company of Friends travelling in the ministry, who visited that place; towards whom she manifested an extraordinary attachment for one of her years, taking great satisfaction in their company and conversation, often withdrawing from her juvenile associates, to avail herself of the instructive remarks of those of riper years.

With much vivacity, she possessed an amiable disposition and a capacious and lucid mind, and being intelligent and interesting in conversation, and of engaging manners, she was much sought by a large circle of fashionable acquaintances, by whom she was surrounded; and being situated in a small meeting, at a distance from any other neighborhood of Friends, and having an inclination for gay society, the temptation to shun the cross was great, and through inattention to the "light of Christ," she departed in some measure in her appearance, from the simplicity of the truth; (for which she manifested deep regret in after life;) yet through all her deviations, she retained a continued regard for the honor and reputation of the religious society of which she was a member, and to which she felt bound by the firm conviction that theirs was the profession of the truth as it is in the Gospel; and she was careful to do nothing that she thought would bring a reproach upon it; and subsequently remarked that she never departed from the plain Scripture language in her social intercourse, on any occasion.

In 1824 she was married to Jonas M. Varney, and settled in Wolfborough, in the neighborhood of her parents. Their prospects in life appeared flattering, and she now gave herself more liberty in imitating the vain fashions of the world. But He, who in infinite mercy watcheth over the children of men for good, was pleased to appoint to her a dispensation of affliction, and to mar the beauty of temporal things in her view; for within two years from their marriage, she was bereft of her beloved husband, and left a widowed mother in the 25th year of her age.

Under this afflicting dispensation, which she esteemed a divine appointment, designed in mercy for her good, she was led to take a retrospect of her past life, and to look into her

spiritual condition, and through the influences of divine grace, she saw that by the love of the world, she had been too much alienated from the love of Christ; and that her mind was unreconciled to the will of her Lord and Saviour, and under a sense of her unworthiness, she was brought into great sorrow and contrition, and for a time, was almost overwhelmed with dismay and despair;—in this state of feeling, she saw the emptiness of worldly pleasure, and the vanity of trusting to uncertain riches; and was made willing to sacrifice whatever she saw conflicted with her peace, and to covenant with the Lord, that if he would receive her into favor through his pardoning mercy, she would serve him in "the obedience of faith;" and the God of peace, in his own gracious time, was pleased to arise for her consolation, in granting her an earnest that she was reconciled to *Him* by the *Death* of his *Son;* though not without having to pass through many conflicts in succeeding time, both in an outward and spiritual sense.

And as she patiently submitted to the baptism of Him who baptizes with the Holy Ghost and with fire, she received a gift in the ministry of the gospel, that is not of man, nor is learned but by the revelation of Jesus Christ; and became deeply impressed with a sense of duty to communicate to others, what the Lord had done for her, and to exalt His name in the congregations of His people; but looking too much at her own imperfections, for a while she stumbled at the *Cross*, which involved her in deep sorrow of heart, and learning obedience by the things that she suffered, she was made willing in the day of the Lord's power; and in the thirty-first year of her age, she came forth in the important service into which she was called, greatly to the relief and peace of her own mind.

In 1831, she was married to Lindley M. Hoag, and in the relation of wife, she was a worthy example, being a true help meet, both spiritually and temporally. Notwithstanding she had been brought up in comparative affluence, yet she readily conformed her temporal wants to the circumstances of her husband, exemplifying in no ordinary degree the virtues of industry, economy, true moderation and christian contentment, and often she would find means from their small resources, to re-

lieve the wants of the indigent and afflicted, saying, "If I am not faithful over a little, I should not be faithful over much."

She was hospitable to strangers, and took great delight in entertaining her friends, especially the messengers of the Gospel. She frequently observed that it was the summit of her temporal desires, to be able to entertain her friends comfortably, and to give her children a good education; more than that she did not ask. She was deeply concerned to bring up her children in the way they should go, maintaining parental authority with firmness, yet through the benign influence of the law of love, often seeking in humble prayer, divine aid, that she might discharge her duty towards them in a suitable manner.

She freely gave up her husband to travel abroad in the service of truth, whenever he apprehended it right, taking the charge of their family in his absence, and managing their temporal affairs with great discretion.

She was concerned to occupy the precious gift committed to her charge, and at different times visited most of the meetings in our own Yearly Meeting, and some parts of New-York and Philadelphia Yearly Meetings, to the acceptance and satisfaction of Friends, and to the peace of her own mind. And it may be said that in the performance of her religious visits, she was an example of dedication, surmounting difficulties, and encountering apparent dangers from feeble health in a remarkable manner.

She was sound in doctrine, and her religious communications were clear and impressive, rightly dividing the word to those amongst whom she labored; and as she drew near the close of life, she was frequently led forth in her Gospel labors in a remarkable manner.

She attended the Quarterly Meeting, for the last time, in the autumn of 1842; after which, her health failing, she went out but little. In the first month, 1843, feeling very desirous to attend meeting once more, way was made for it, and she was led in an interesting and impressive manner, to communicate to the meeting, although she was unable to stand upon her feet during the exercise.

In the early part of her confinement, she was introduced in-

to close and deep investigation of her spiritual condition, in which she was baptiezd into great travail of soul for a time, as "in the cloud and in the sea," during which she was much engaged in prayer, and frequently vocally, that the Lord would strengthen her in the faith and in the patience, to endure all that, in infinite goodness and wisdom was laid upon her. And He who keeps covenant with the night as with the day, was pleased to arise in his own time, as a morning without clouds, to her unspeakable joy, by granting her an undoubted assurance that her name was written in the Lamb's Book of Life. In relation to which she observed to her husband, "I have passed through more in my mind, than I could describe, so great has been my anxiety to know that nothing remained in my way, and my Heavenly Father has given me a clear and undoubted evidence that he has accepted me. For my Saviour's sake all is forgiven me."

A few days after, she remarked in conversation, with other weighty expressions, "I would not exchange the peace I feel, and the assurance I at times am favored with, that a glorious immortality awaits me, for all that this world affords."

She derived great consolation from retirement, and often desired to be left alone for that purpose, expressing on some occasions, that it seemed like a Sabbath to the mind.

Notwithstanding her great bodily debility, she continued to take the oversight of her family, and to give the direction of her domestic affairs, until very near her death. In relation to which, she observed to a friend, "I do not know but some may think it strange that I should take so much thought about my temporal concerns, but I believe it is my duty to look after my family as long as I can. I feel as though it is a part of the work that is left for me to do. It is not for the love of worldly things; I feel weaned from them."

On the opening of the Spring, she recruited a little, so that she was able to ride out, and some of her friends indulged a hope that she would again enjoy a more comfortable state of health: respecting which she observed—"It was hid from her whether she should continue a long or a short time; that that was something that she had never been able to see," and added, "I do not know as that is an evidence of Divine disappro-

bation, for I have read the account of a number of worthy Friends, who had no sight of their approaching change; of whose acceptance into the kingdom of glory, there can be no doubt. The great point is, to be in a state of readiness for death at all times, both in health and sickness."

The prospect that her children would ere long be deprived of a mother's care and watchful concern, caused her much anxiety, and at times seemed to draw a cloud over her mind. A few days before her death, her husband inquired of her in relation to that subject, having known her solicitude: she replied, "Oh! my Redeemer has been with me to-day, and as well as I love thee, (and thou never appeared more lovely to me,) I have been enabled to give you all up. There can be nothing more glorious, than the prospect I have had, of departing and being with Christ: and were it not for the little service that I am able to render my family, I should not desire to remain here any longer." The day before her death, a friend observed that her sufferings appeared to be great; she replied, "I have never looked upon any of the sufferings which this poor body has endured, as hard. I do not know that I have ever felt impatient, but have received them as from the hand of the Lord."

After giving some direction relative to her children, addressing her family she said, "Now I have given you all up. I feel as though my work is done." Next morning, she appearing to be failing fast, her children and friends were called in, of whom she took her last farewell, embracing her near relatives in an affectionate and tender manner, imparting salutary admonition to them, through which her mind was serene and composed. And turning to the company about her, she said, "I think I may safely say, that my Redeemer has given me an undoubted evidence, that he has accepted me." She asked her physician if he thought she was dying. Being answered in the affirmative, she said, "Can this be death? If this is death, it has lost its sting. The grave will have no victory. My work is finished. I have no fear of death." After a pause she said, "Come Lord Jesus, lift up the light of thy countenance." Shortly after, she expressed a desire to be released, saying, "Now I should be glad to go;" then added, "but I

am willing to wait all the Lord's appointed time"—and being removed from her chair to her bed, she fell into a quiet sleep and gently breathed her last, on the 17th of 6th month, 1843, in the 43d year of her age.

And having, by patient continuance in well doing, sought for immortality, we doubt not that she now inherits eternal life.

Signed on behalf and by direction of Sandwich, N. H., Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 4th month, 18th, 1844.

EZRA MEADER,
CAROLINE BEEDE, } Clerks.

The foregoing testimony concerning our beloved friend, Huldah B. Hoag, has been read at this meeting and united with, and the Clerks are directed to sign the same on behalf of the meeting.

By direction and on behalf of Dover Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held at Dover, 4th month, 25th, 1844.

EZRA MEADER,
ABIGAIL M. JONES, } Clerks.

PHEBE B. TABER.

A testimony of Unity Monthly Meeting, concerning our late beloved friend, Phebe B. Taber, wife of Joseph Taber, of Albion, Maine, and daughter of Isaac and Sarah Buffum.

We deeply feel that in this instance of mortality, our Society is deprived of an exemplary and useful member, of one who, through faithfulness to the discoveries of Divine Grace, was enabled to live a watchful, circumspect life.

Measurably clothed with a meek and quiet spirit, she manifested an abiding concern for the promotion of the cause of truth and righteousness, being diligent in the attendance of our religious meetings, and exemplary in a solid waiting therein. She was an affectionate wife, a tender mother, and a kind neighbor; open hearted to those who stood in need of relief,

and very desirous that love and unity might be maintained in families, in neighborhoods and in the church, being a good example herein herself. During the time that she was mostly confined at home through bodily infirmity, she was favored with patience and resignation, which, with her innocent and meek deportment, ministered instruction.

She had been sensible, for several months, that her time here would be short, yet she cherished a hope that she might be spared a little longer to her dependent family, which she felt, very much needed a mother's care. But after a season of severe struggle, she was, through the unmerited mercy of her Heavenly Father, enabled to resign all to him, believing that his paternal care would be extended to them. About this time a friend in the ministry called to see her, and said that all was well, that there was a mansion prepared for her, that she and hers would be cared for; which seemed for a time, to relieve her almost disconsolate mind. But it was permitted that her faith should again be tried, at which time she was left to doubt the truth of the message which had been delivered to her, saying it was so much more than she deserved that she feared it was not so, and was almost ready to conclude that the summer was past, the harvest ended and she was not gathered. But He, whose tender mercies fail not, was pleased again to arise, with healing in his wings, and disperse the clouds; she then said the blessed Saviour had condescended to show her why he had for a season veiled his face from her, that it was because she had not enough given up the things of this world. As her strength failed, she appeared to be engaged, with much deliberation and composure of mind, to prepare for the approaching event, and spoke of it with much resignation. She was, when in health, a frequent reader of the holy Scriptures, yet she said what she most regretted was, that she had not spent more time in the perusal of them, and with a heart turned to the Lord for instruction. When she became unable to read, she often requested to have a portion of them read to her. Very earnest were her desires that her children should frequently seek instruction from the inspired page, and when she thought her end might be near, she had them called around her, and gave them much good

advice and requested them to refrain from reading newspapers on the first day of the week, as it was calculated to lessen our love for reading the holy Scriptures and religious books, which she knew by experience, having in times past, indulged somewhat therein. On the 29th of the 5th mo., after making all of the arrangements that she wished to, she observed that she had done with all things here, and said she believed there was nothing in her way—all was calm, quiet and pleasant—that she had no fear of death. She often craved that her patience might not fail, and that she might be preserved from one murmuring word or thought, which request, it is believed, was in mercy granted her.

After being, for a long time, in great distress, she exclaimed, "Oh! Heavenly Father, if it be consistent with thy holy will, be pleased to grant me a little rest, nevertheless not my will but thine be done." After which, she lay more quiet. The 21st, she remarked that she thought we might look for the messenger at any time. Her husband observed that he supposed she was prepared to meet him. "Yes," she replied, "it will be a happy release to me." The morning of the 22d, being in much distress, she requested those around her to pray for her release. She quietly expired between 4 and 5 in the evening, in the 43d year of her age, and we humbly trust, has gone where tears and sorrows are unknown.

The committee on memorials, forwarded the within account of Phebe B. Taber, which being read, was united with by this and the women's meeting, and the clerk directed to forward it to the Quarterly Meeting.

From the minutes of Unity Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 19th of 11th mo. 1846.

ASA JONES, Clerk.

Unity Monthly Meeting forwarded a memorial of the life and sayings of Phebe B. Taber, which being read, was united with by this and the Women's Meeting, and the clerk is directed to forward it to the meeting for sufferings, with this minute endorsed thereon.

From the minutes of Vassalboro' Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held 12th of 2d mo. 1847.

ASA JONES, Clerk.

JOHN PAGE.

A testimony of Weare Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning John Page.

The sanctifying power of truth having been exemplified in the life and last illness of our late beloved friend, John Page, and believing that the christian experiences of the faithful, may be useful in encouraging those who are desirous to follow them in the path of religion and virtue, we are induced to offer the following testimony concerning him.

He was born at Seabrook, in the year 1767. His parents, Daniel and Mary Page, removed with their family to Weare, New-Hampshire, when the subject of this memoir was about two years of age. They were members of our religious society, and concerned to impress on the tender minds of their offspring, the importance of regarding the gentle intimations and leadings of the spirit of truth.

This parental care and solicitude under the divine blessing, produced a desire in his youthful mind to shun the wrong way, and choose the right; they being (as he has often expressed) in a striking manner, presented to his view. His father was an approved minister, and peacefully passed from works to rewards, after residing in this place about twelve years.

This loss of a worthy parent, of whose salutary counsel and example he was thus early deprived, he sensibly felt. Notwithstanding the continued care of a pious mother, through unwatchfulness, he yielded to the temptations incident to youth, and deviated from that path of rectitude, which had been so clearly opened to his view.

Soon after his marriage, which was about the 24th year of his age, being, through merciful condescension, awakened to a sense of his condition, and being humbled and truly penitent, he witnessed the restoring love of the Redeemer, and as he continued watchful and obedient, he became qualified for usefulness in the church.

About the forty-seventh year of his age, he was appointed to the station of an Elder, which important place he was concerned faithfully to fill.

His circumstances in life, though not affluent, were such as to enable him by persevering industry and economy, to provide for a numerous family. He manifested a deep interest in the religious instruction of his children, being concerned to assemble his family for the purpose of solemn waiting before the Lord, and careful to promote their constant attendance of our religious meetings.

His heart and house were open to entertain his friends, especially those who were travelling for the promotion of truth; these he frequently accompanied in their journies on that account. He was deeply concerned to preserve good order, and to maintain the discipline of the church, being fully persuaded that it was established under the influence of the spirit of truth. On some occasions he offered a few words of exhortation, evidently from the right source, which were acceptable and edifying.

He was a lover of peace, being frequently engaged in endeavoring to reconcile differences amongst his fellow men, for which service he was well qualified; when admonishing the unfaithful, he was careful to do it in the spirit of meekness and restoring love.

He was a firm believer in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, both as to his outward coming in the flesh, his sufferings, death, resurrection, ascension, mediation, and intercession at the right hand of the Father; and to his spiritual appearance in the heart as the comforter, leading and guiding into all truth.

Being settled and established in these fundamental truths, he continued a faithful laborer in the service of our divine master, until he had attained to a good old age, giving evidence by the meekness of his spirit, that he was preparing for the great and solemn change.

A few days previous to his dissolution, some slight symptoms of indisposition were apparent, but they assumed no serious aspect, till within two days of his death, when his recovery became more doubtful; and though suffering much bodily distress, his patience and resignation were great, and not a repining word escaped him, but love seemed remarkably to abound, and his countenance and the sweetness of his spirit

indicated that all was peace within. Early on the morning of the day of his decease, he expressed that it had been his greatest desire for a long time to be found doing his maker's will, and although sensible of many short comings, yet he believed, through the mercies of the Redeemer, he should not be cast off. Soon after, he said to the physician, "dost thou think that I shall get through with time to-day?" Being answered, "I should think so," he replied "I hope I shall be favored to wait the dear master's time, that is the best time;" and often during the day, manifested an earnest desire to be preserved in patience. To a friend who came to see him, he remarked; "I am near the close of time and all is peace, I feel nothing in my way," and with a countenance full of expression, he said, "It is a *great* favor, a favor indeed, at such a time as this." At one time, two of his sons, standing by his bed, he took each of them affectionately by the hand, and earnestly entreated them to live in love, that so they might be helpful to each other, and expressed an earnest solicitude that they might faithfully walk in the path of known duty. Soon after, addressing his wife, he said, "I am very near the final close; the time has nearly come when we must be separated—but the separation will not be long, for thou wilt soon follow me—hold fast that which thou hast received, that no man take thy crown." Many of his friends and acquaintance coming to see him, he received them with evident feelings of solicitude for their future well being, and was favored to give them such counsel and advice as seemed applicable to their several states.

At about six in the evening, he called for his wife, saying he wished to take leave of her, and affectionately embracing her, and uttering several consoling expressions, he said,—"Farewell, farewell in the Lord." The other members of the family, and many of his relatives and friends coming in, he commenced taking his final leave of them, and in a very striking manner was favored to communicate sweet instruction to each of them, from the aged brother and sisters, to the small children. This occupied nearly two hours, during which time Divine assistance was evidently granted, his voice continuing perfectly intelligible, and his communications being accompanied with a remarkable evidence of

holy help. Soon after this favored opportunity, his voice rapidly failed, and the distress occasioned by the disorder being very severe, it was difficult to understand all he wished to express. This state of suffering continued about three hours, after which he seemed entirely relieved, and passed quietly away the 28th of 8th month, 1846, aged about 79 years. On the 30th, his remains were interred in Friends' burying ground, in Weare, after a large and solemn meeting; and although the mournful reflection is left upon our minds, that a faithful pillar in the church has been removed from our midst, yet it is accompanied with a sweet remembrance of the promise that "to him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his Throne."

Signed on behalf and by direction of the meeting aforesaid, held at Henniker, the 13th of 5th mo. 1847.

JOHN PAGE,
HANNAH PAGE, Jr. } Clerks.

At Salem Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held at Seabrook, the 27th of 5th mo. 1847, the foregoing testimony concerning our late beloved friend, John Page, being read, was united with, and the clerk was directed to make an endorsement thereon, certifying our approval thereof, and sign it on our behalf, and forward it to the meeting for Sufferings.

Signed on behalf of the meeting.

SAMUEL BOYCE,
SOPHRONIA PAGE, } Clerks.

ALICE RATHBUN.

Testimony of Smithfield Monthly Meeting, concerning our beloved friend, Alice Rathbun, deceased.

When those are removed from us whose examples are worthy of imitation, whose lives have been instructive, and who have given full evidence that they have been followers and servants of Christ, it seems right for the encouragement and

benefit of the living, to preserve some memorial of them, that survivors may be incited to tread in their footsteps and follow them in the way of salvation.

Our beloved friend, Alice Rathbun, the subject of the following brief memoir, was the daughter of William and Mercy Peckham, and was born in South-Kingstown, 1st month 19th, 1780. Of her early life, we are not possessed of many particulars, to introduce into this notice. In the year 1801, she was united in marriage to our friend, Rowland Rathbun, and removed to reside with her husband, within the limits of this Monthly Meeting.

She was naturally of quick and ardent feelings, which, in mercy, were brought under the restraining, regulating, and sanctifying power of Divine Grace, by which she was gradually reduced into a state of obedience to her heavenly master, and made willing to submit to the requirements that He saw meet to lay upon her. And, in his wisdom, he was pleased to dispense to her a gift in the ministry, and she yielded to the Divine will, so as to open her mouth in public, about the thirtieth year of her age. As she continued faithful to her Lord and Master, her gift was enlarged, and her communications being evidently in that life and authority which produce edification, she was acknowledged as a minister of the Gospel by her friends, in the year 1814. In advocating the cause of our Redeemer, she was remarkably favored to do it in a way that was calculated to interest, and win souls to him. Her manner was peculiarly dignified and persuasive; and the love which filled her heart and freely flowed to others, produced its effect upon those that were witnesses of it, inducing them to feel and to appreciate the loveliness of the Truth, and creating in them, through the Divine blessing, desires to be found walking in it.

In the social circle, she was attractive and her society was much sought, especially by the young, to whom she readily adapted herself, and who found in her a kind and sympathetic friend, one that could enter into their feelings, and interest, while she instructed them—and not a few can testify of the satisfaction and edification they have derived from the endearing intercourse they have been privileged to enjoy with her.

She was faithful in her maintenance of all the testimonies

of Truth, which we are called upon, as a people, to bear; and when in the discharge of her duty, she was required to labor with those who had departed therefrom, the sweetness, tenderness, and restoring love, with which she approached them, the meekness and the wisdom which she manifested, were truly edifying and worthy of imitation.

She was much concerned that the young might be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, and as a wife and mother, she was an example of faithfulness, affection and vigilance.

In the year eighteen hundred thirty-seven, at the solicitation of their friends, she, with her husband, took charge of our Yearly Meeting Boarding School at Providence, as Superintendents. It was with much diffidence and hesitancy, that she entered upon this service, but she was favored to discharge the varied and important duties that devolved upon her in this station, to the satisfaction of Friends.

She several times, with the full approval of Friends, paid religious visits within the limits of our own Yearly Meeting. In 1816, she received a certificate to visit Friends in Gospel love, in some parts of New-York Yearly Meeting, and in 1820, to visit Friends within the Yearly Meeting of Ohio and some within the limits of Baltimore, Philadelphia and New-York Yearly Meetings. All these services she was favored to accomplish to the peace of her own mind and to the comfort and edification of those whom she visited, as is fully testified by the various minutes made on her behalf by the several meetings she attended.

In her ministry, our beloved friend was engaged to set forth the necessity of holiness of life, of meekness and humble walking with God—to urge upon all the duty of faithfully following the good Shepherd whithersoever he is pleased to lead us; —yet she fully felt and preached, that it is not from works of righteousness, that we can attain to salvation,—that we are unprofitable servants, and that we know remission of sins, alone through the propitiatory offering of our Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary, and through faith and repentance come to receive acceptance in Him, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world.

For several years before her decease, her health had been very delicate, and she travelled but little beyond the limits of her own Quarterly Meeting, although she was generally able to attend meetings at and near home, being very diligent in the discharge of this important duty. In the 6th month, 1845, she attended our Yearly Meeting, and her spirit was deeply grieved with the course pursued by some whom she had long loved, in their yielding to a spirit of disaffection, which caused them to become alienated and to separate from the body of Friends, and while she was engaged most persuasively to entreat them to open their eyes to the error of their ways; yet, when she found this unavailing, she was firm in testifying against them, as having departed from the Truth, and united fully with her friends in the support of right order in the Church. In the 7th month of this year, she laid before this Meeting a concern to visit in Gospel love, the Quarterly Meetings of Dover, Vassalboro' and Fairfield, and some meetings within their limits, and received the unity of Friends for this service. It was during this visit, and while engaged in the work of her Lord and Master, that it pleased Him to remove her, as we reverently trust, from his church militant, to his church triumphant. Her last sickness was of but short duration and with apparently but little physical suffering.—We conclude this brief memoir with an extract from the minutes of this Monthly Meeting, made 12th month, 1845.—"Our beloved friend, Rowland Rathbun, returned to this meeting, the minute granted our dear friend, Alice Rathbun, in the 7th month last, informing that she had been favored to attend the Quarterly Meetings of Dover and Falmouth, and a number of meetings constituting the same, and also one meeting within the limits of Fairfield Quarterly Meeting, and while thus ardently engaged in endeavoring to accomplish, in the love of the Gospel, the service then in prospect, was taken unwell, and increasingly so, at the house of our friend, Samuel Taylor, in Belgrade, where, after a short illness, she peacefully closed her useful life on the 9th of the 9th month, 1845. Thus has it pleased Divine Providence, to remove from works to rewards, one who has long been a faithful laborer in the Lord's vineyard, a pillar in the Church, greatly

beloved and esteemed by us. And it seems right for us at this time to minute this memorial concerning her, "for the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

Signed by direction and on behalf of Smithfield Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 29th of 4th month, 1847.

JOHN OSBORNE,
LYDIA R. KELLY, } Clerks.

A memorial concerning our beloved friend, Alice Rathbun, deceased, prepared by Smithfield Monthly Meeting, was read, weightily considered and fully approved by this and our Women's Meeting, and the Clerk directed to transmit the same to our Meeting for Sufferings.

Extracted from the minutes of Smithfield Quarterly Meeting held at Northbridge, 5th month, 13th, 1847.

JOHN OSBORNE, Clerk.

NOAH READ.

A testimony of Windham Monthly Meeting of Friends, concerning our late aged and worthy friend, Noah Read.

Although considerable time has elapsed since the decease of our dear aged and worthy friend, Noah Read, yet the remembrance of him is still fresh in our minds, and we believe it right to preserve the following brief testimony, concerning him.

He was born in Attleborough, State of Massachusetts, the 22d of 9th mo. 1757, of parents not in profession with Friends, and in the 31st year of his age, he was received a member of Falmouth Monthly Meeting, of which this Monthly Meeting was then a part. Of his previous life little has come to our knowledge, but from this time he appears to have been engaged in the cause of truth and righteousness in the earth, and was concerned that his life and conversation might be answerable to the profession he was making. He was for many years

more or less occupied as a teacher of the youthful members of our society, in the common branches of school learning, which service he performed much to the satisfaction of his friends. He was a zealous friend of the aborigines of this country, and when the situation of the Penobscot tribe of Indians engaged the attention of our Yearly Meeting, he was early appointed one of the committee to look into their situation, and for many years gave much personal attention to that concern. He often visited them at their location, and going from cabin to cabin, would enter into free converse with them and endeavor to turn their attention to their religious duties, and to instruct them in the arts of civilized life, and in this way his labors were very useful.

In the year 1800, he was appointed an Elder, which station he very acceptably filled during the remainder of his life; being sound in faith and doctrines, of a clear discerning spirit, and although at times a sharp reprover of that which was wrong, yet feeling and tender towards the humble and diffident, often speaking a word of encouragement to them. And it may truly be said of him, that he was as a father in the Church, an Elder who ruled well. The weightiness of his spirit has often been felt to be strengthening when no words have been uttered, and in our meetings for discipline, especially in the latter part of his life, he was remarkably concise and comprehensive in his expressions and continued to give evidence that he had deeply at heart the welfare of the Church.

When the spirit of insubordination and disaffection made its appearance among us, which in 1845 resulted in a small secession in this Yearly Meeting, he early became sensible that it was the work of the enemy, and was concerned faithfully to warn friends of the danger of being imperceptibly captivated by it. As age and disease advanced upon him, he was prevented from participating in the more active concerns of society, yet he retained a deep and lively interest in its prosperity to the last. To a friend who called to see him during his illess, he remarked that although he could not attend meetings with us, yet he was in mind and spirit there, and he advised that friends should be patient but firm in the maintenance of the discipline, for he had seen that those who had be-

come disaffected, must return to the bosom of society or they would be scattered and come to nothing.

The disorder which terminated his life, was of such a nature that it occasioned extreme bodily suffering, yet he bore it all with christian fortitude and patience, and during the whole of his sickness, not a murmur was known to escape from him, but he cheerfully acquiesced in the Divine will, evincing a deep concern and exercise of mind to receive it all as from a merciful God. Although he expressed but little as to the state of his mind, yet he was repeatedly heard to say that he saw nothing in his way. Thus having been concerned to do his days work in the day time, he was found in the evening of life, in a humble child-like state of mind, quietly waiting for the coming of his Lord. "Blessed are those servants whom the Lord when he cometh, shall find watching."

He quietly departed this life on the 10th of 4th mo. 1844, in the eighty-seventh year of his age.

Given forth by Windham Monthly Meeting of Friends, held 28th of 1st mo. 1848.

OLIVER POPE,
SARAH W. POPE, } Clerks.

The foregoing testimony concerning our late beloved friend Noah Read, having been read at this time, was fully united with, by this and the Women's Meeting, and the clerks are directed to sign it on behalf of this meeting and forward it to the meeting for Sufferings.

From the minutes of Falmouth Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held at Windham, 2d mo. 3d, 1848.

LEMUEL JONES,
LYDIA H. JONES, } Clerks.

LYDIA BREED.

Testimony of Weare Monthly Meeting, New-Hampshire, concerning Lydia Breed, deceased.

It is under the sense of the privation we have sustained in the removal by death of our late beloved friend, Lydia Breed, and that others may be encouraged to follow her as she followed Christ, that we are engaged to issue this brief memorial concerning her—and to bear our testimony to the efficacy of that Grace by which she was preserved and through the power of which, she became a pillar in the Lord's house and a Mother in the Church.

She was born in Leicester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, the 16th of 2d mo. 1777. Her parents, Robert and Sarah Earle, were concerned to bring up their family with care, and to impress upon them the necessity of correct habits and of living in the fear of the Lord. This christian concern had its influence upon her youthful mind, and although inclined to indulge in a lively disposition, which was natural to her, her veneration for her parents was such that she regarded their wholesome restraints, and in advanced age, expressed that the remembrance of this filial obedience had been a consolation to her through life. Many were the baptisms through which she passed in her early years, and the refining fire of the Lord was kindled in her heart, while yet very young, purifying and cleansing it from the evil appertaining to it by nature.

Among her memorandums, is the following upon this subject:—"From childhood to more mature age, I was tenderly visited as with the day spring from on high. The necessity of entire submission and dedication of heart was plainly opened to view, my weaknesses and short comings rested heavily upon me; but the Lord working with me and for me, I was enabled to seek and obtain forgiveness." Yielding herself unto the manifested requirements of her Heavenly Father, after seasons of very close conflict, she spoke a few words in the ministry, in a public meeting for Divine worship, in the

19th year of her age—and great was the peace of mind she witnessed. As she continued faithful in the discharge of her apprehended duty, she was strengthened by Him who had called her into this field of service, and although her public communications were generally concise, they were weighty and edifying, and her gift was acknowledged by her friends of Uxbridge Monthly and Smithfield Quarterly Meetings, when she was about 26 years of age.

In the 23d year of her age, she was married to John Fry, Jr. of Bolton, Massachusetts, with whom she lived at that place, highly esteemed by Friends and others, about fifteen years, when in the 5th month, 1813, her husband was removed from her by death, leaving her with five small children. In the 10th month, 1814, she was married to our friend, Enoch Breed, a worthy Elder in our Society, remarkable for his uprightness and probity, and came to reside within the limits of this Monthly Meeting.

In 1824, Enoch and Lydia Breed were selected as Superintendents of the Yearly Meeting Boarding School, at Providence, and for more than twelve years, they discharged the varied and important duties incident to that station, in a manner that redounded to the benefit of the children placed in that institution, to their own peace, and to the satisfaction of Friends. When the infirmities of age and of declining health admonished them of the necessity of retiring from the arduous duties in which they had been thus industriously engaged, they returned to this meeting and were gladly welcomed by us, where they continued to reside until both were taken from us by death.

To our beloved friend, Lydia Breed, was granted a discerning spirit, by which she was enabled to distinguish with much accuracy between thing and thing, and while she was ever ready to extend a helping hand to the feeble and trembling ones, and to uphold the weak, she was unflinching in the exposure and condemnation of error, not regarding the effects upon herself of the faithful discharge of her duty, being remarkably preserved from a time-serving policy in which some are ensnared by seeking popular favor and applause. As a wise counsellor we can bear our testimony that we have been wont

to resort to her and have had great cause of thankfulness to our Heavenly Father for the ability he was pleased to impart to her, by which, she was, from time to time, enabled to administer salutary counsel and advice, and to be instrumental in supporting the order of the Gospel and the Christian discipline of the Church. She was a few times liberated for religious service in different parts of this and New-York Yearly Meetings; which visits were performed to the acceptance of Friends and the solid peace of her own mind, but she did not feel that it was required of her to travel much from home.—Her communications were not frequent in our meetings, but her ministry was sound and edifying, being in the demonstration of the spirit and of power. She was thoroughly established in the doctrines of the Christian Religion, as professed by Friends—a full believer in our Lord Jesus Christ as he came in that prepared body to do His Father's will—as he died for us on Calvary, a propitiatory offering for the sins of the world—as he arose again and ascended on high, giving gifts unto men—as he ever liveth our adorable intercessor and mediator at the Father's own right hand. She was a sincere and practical believer in his spiritual appearance in the heart—and that it is the blessed privilege which all may witness to know the Holy Spirit, to guide and direct us in our pilgrimage here, and that it is through His power alone, that we are qualified for every good word and work. Being thus settled in the truth, she was prepared, through the aboundings of Grace, to declare unto others what the Lord had done for her, and to set forth the way of salvation in and through a Crucified Saviour. She was zealously concerned for the maintenance of the Discipline of the Church and very skillful in administering it, often successfully exerting herself, through divine aid, in calling back the wanderers and restoring those who had strayed from the right way. Her example in attending all our religious meetings, even when her health was much impaired, was very instructive and deserving of imitation. Very frequently has she been with us in our religious assemblies when her strength was so enfeebled that those of less energy or of weaker faith, might have believed that their physical infirmities quite disqualified them from making the effort; and greatly

has it been to our comfort and edification, and we have cause to believe to her peace, that she thus exerted herself to be with us at such seasons. She had uninterruptedly attended our Yearly Meeting for many years and performed this duty for the last time in 1845, and faithfully united with Friends in the support of right order on that trying occasion, bearing testimony unflinchingly to the Truth, and comforting and encouraging those whose hands hung down. Although she was at this time very feeble, she had earnestly desired once more to meet with her friends in their annual assembly, and we believe she was enabled to attend every session of that protracted meeting. After her return home, her health sensibly, though not rapidly declined, yet she continued to attend meetings—to visit the sick, to whom her presence was peculiarly acceptable, and to receive visits from her friends. Her conversation was instructive and often animated and attractive—and the lessons of her wisdom and experience we trust, will long be remembered by many. As her strength failed, she was more and more confined to the house, but her interest in the concerns of Truth did not apparently abate, and she continued to be resorted to and consulted on subjects of importance either relating to individuals or to the Church. She deliberately set her house in order and waited patiently for the coming of her Lord, trusting confidingly in Him, and placing no dependence in any works that she had done. She declared that she felt herself to be an unprofitable servant, wholly unworthy of a place in the Heavenly Kingdom—and resting all her hopes in the blessed and adorable Saviour, in and through him she was enabled to testify to her sustaining faith and consoling belief that her sins were forgiven and her robe washed and made white. She often spoke of her approaching change, and at times, expressed her longing desire to be a partaker of the joys of Heaven, of which, at seasons, we believe she was permitted in a remarkable manner to have a foretaste. Her bodily sufferings towards her close, were sometimes severe, but she was preserved in much patience, quietly waiting the Lord's appointed time, and on the 23d day of 4th month, 1847, this dedicated servant and minister of Christ, was released from all conflict, and, as we reverently believe, removed from the

Church militant on Earth, to the Church triumphant in Heaven; being in the 71st year of her age.

May her survivors in contemplating the life and death of this dear friend, remember that through the Grace of God, she was what she was—and that this Grace proved sufficient for her through life, and at the hour of death, giving her the victory over the grave.

Signed on behalf and by direction of Weare Monthly Meeting of Friends, held in Henniker, 11th of 5th month, 1848.

JOHN PAGE,
HANNAH PAIGE, Jr. } Clerks.

At Salem Quarterly Meeting of Friends, held in Seabrook, 25th of 5th month, 1848, a testimony from Weare Monthly Meeting concerning our late beloved friend, Lydia Breed, was at this time received—and being read and approved, the clerk was directed to make an endorsement thereon, certifying our approval thereof, and forward it to our Meeting for Sufferings.

Signed on behalf of the Meeting.

SAMUEL BOYCE,
SOPHRONIA PAGE. } Clerks.

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